

# Marshfield Conservation Commission

## 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting

6 November, 2013

Members Attending: Tony Mayhew, Allen Banbury, Brett Engstrom, Steve Fiske, Sara Norton, Annie Reed, Mike Zahner, Ed Jalbert and Bob Popp

### Review of Minutes:

- Minutes of June and August meeting approved unanimously as presented.
- July meeting was field visit to MCB to remove invasive plants.
- October Minutes: Approved unanimously with one modification.

### Treasurers Report:

- Balance of \$5,034 in dedicated Conservation Fund
- Balance of \$202 in Operating Fund

### Martin Covered Bridge:

- Bob discussed the work day at MCB to protect the trees against beavers. Charlie Wanzer's class is planning to assist on Wed. Mike will be able to supervise the students.  
**Note:** this was subsequently cancelled.
- Bob distributed information about painting trunks with sand rather than using screening. Members seemed agreeable to this.  
**Note:** subsequent information received from Friends of Winooski questioned using paint on trees < 2 inches in diameter. **Bob** will follow up on this.
- Also need to remove the bindweed that is choking the plantings.
- **Bob** will visit the site to assess the need for materials. He noted that all planted trees were < 2 inches, but that about half had sustained rodent girdling at the base.

**Motion:** to purchase paint, sand, brushes and other materials as necessary to protect the trees at MCB. Passed unanimously.

- Steve surveyed for mussels ca 200m upriver from bridge with students from Twinfield. They sampled meter wide transects every 10 m for a total of 21 transects.
- More mussels were found in gravel rather than sandy substrate.
- Steve also found a number of dead shells; Steve feels it is due to the spring 2011 flooding.
- Temperature stress is also a concern; temperatures often reach 20 °C in summer.
- Steve located another population of pearl shell above Woodbury L. on the Kingsbury Branch; probably over a thousand.

Water Quality Report – tabled till next meeting

Stranahan Town Forest

- Brett visited stands 23 & 24 which are marked for logging.
- He made some changes to natural community map in the area and also some found additional wetlands.
- VLT easement requires a stream buffer of 50ft back from top of bank and staying away from all wetlands depicted on the natural community map.
- Brett suggested inventorying remainder of property for smaller wetlands before any more logging occurs.
- Ed feels that timber sales are too small as is and adding more conditions will make them unmarketable. He suggests having fewer, larger sales.
- Discussed trying to delay the sale until the wetlands can be mapped in their entirety. Ed fears that would lose all the blow downs if waited till following year.

**Motion:** to modify the natural community map to incorporate the smaller wetlands that were initially missed. Approved unanimously.

- **Ed** will discuss the topic with the stewardship committee.

Other Business:

- Excavation in the field in the floodplain of the Winooski across from the big barn upstream of the MCB. The Town is apparently unaware of any permitted activities.
- Discussion of fall & winter activities: Tabled.
- Bob mentioned that he submitted the letter to the Selectboard requesting the establishment of the Stranahan Stewardship Fund.

Submitted by: Bob Popp

Submitted on: 11 November 2013

Approved on: 4 December